

I am a retired ND educator. Having taught all 47 years in the Enderlin Public Schools, a rural public school, I am opposed to HB1532 "The Voucher. bill" for several reasons.

I believe it is not a wise use of taxpayers money. This appropriation would likely only help families in communities with private school options– there is no benefit to kids in rural areas. but as a result rural school students and schools will receive less support this biennium if this bill passes as it would divert educational dollars away from rural schools. Public schools are required to educate all students, that includes the handicapped, learning disabled, and others who require special assistance and come at a higher cost per student. Private schools can choose who they want to accept in their schools and deny these students entrance into their schools.

Rather than taking all tax payers money to fund private schools let the voters in the communities who have private schools decide if they want to fund it with their taxes. They should be able to vote for limited mill levy authority if their communities wish to help fund the private school. Areas that do not have private schools should not be asked to fund them. The state should not be allocating tax dollars without that vote of the people's willingness to fund those schools.

And finally this bill would allow private schools to accept tax dollars without having to play by the same rules as public schools. No accountability, no transparency, nor requirements of a certain income threshold to get the voucher, no tuition caps. That is not acceptable.

I strongly urge you to vote "no" on HB 1532.

Sincerely,  
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